

this equipment. So we have stepped up to the plate.

I helped author this legislation with Senator Dodd back in 2002 to help them. We desperately need this legislation. We need it for firefighters—both paid and volunteer—around the country. But, particularly, as I said, in the smaller areas and the smaller communities where they desperately need the equipment, we have to get it done.

The second point is this: This is the second bill we have done in a very strong bipartisan way. Our colleagues came to us with a list of amendments. It wasn't dilatory. Some of them were difficult for us, but we agreed to the amendments, and in turn, our colleagues voted to move forward. This, again, is how we can run the Senate in a very good and productive way. I hope to do that in every opportunity, where we can come to agreement on amendments, move forward, and pass good legislation.

This is good and needed legislation. I hope we get an overwhelming vote for it.

#### VOTE ON S. 870

The bill was ordered to be engrossed for a third reading and was read the third time.

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. The bill having been read the third time, the question is, Shall the bill pass?

Mr. SCHUMER. I ask for the yeas and nays.

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. Is there a sufficient second?

There appears to be a sufficient second.

The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk called the roll.

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from California (Mrs. FEINSTEIN) is necessarily absent.

Mr. MCCONNELL. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from Indiana (Mr. BRAUN) and the Senator from North Carolina (Mr. TILLIS).

Further, if present and voting, the Senator from North Carolina (Mr. TILLIS) would have voted "yea."

The result was announced—yeas 95, nays 2, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 94 Leg.]

#### YEAS—95

Baldwin	Daines	Lujan
Barrasso	Duckworth	Lummis
Bennet	Durbin	Manchin
Blackburn	Ernst	Markey
Blumenthal	Fetterman	Marshall
Booker	Fischer	McConnell
Boozman	Gillibrand	Menendez
Britt	Graham	Merkley
Brown	Grassley	Moran
Budd	Hagerty	Mullin
Cantwell	Hassan	Murkowski
Capito	Hawley	Murphy
Cardin	Heinrich	Murray
Carper	Hickenlooper	Ossoff
Casey	Hirono	Padilla
Cassidy	Hoeben	Peters
Collins	Hyde-Smith	Reed
Coons	Johnson	Ricketts
Cornyn	Kaine	Risch
Cortez Masto	Kelly	Romney
Cotton	Kennedy	Rosen
Cramer	King	Rounds
Crapo	Klobuchar	Rubio
Cruz	Lankford	Sanders

Schatz	Stabenow	Warnock
Schmitt	Sullivan	Warren
Schumer	Tester	Welch
Scott (FL)	Thune	Whitehouse
Scott (SC)	Tuberville	Wicker
Shaheen	Van Hollen	Wyden
Sinema	Vance	Young
Smith	Warner	

#### NAYS—2

Lee

Paul

#### NOT VOTING—3

Braun

Feinstein

Tillis

(Mr. PETERS assumed the Chair.)  
The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. SCHATZ). On this vote, the yeas are 95, the nays are 2.

The 60-vote threshold having been achieved, the bill is passed.

The bill (S. 870) was passed, as follows:

#### S. 870

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

#### SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Fire Grants and Safety Act".

#### SEC. 2. REAUTHORIZATION OF THE UNITED STATES FIRE ADMINISTRATION.

Section 17(g)(1) of the Federal Fire Prevention and Control Act of 1974 (15 U.S.C. 2216(g)(1)) is amended—

(1) in subparagraph (L), by striking "and";

(2) in subparagraph (M)—

(A) by striking "for for" and inserting

"for"; and

(B) by striking the period and inserting ";

and"; and

(3) by adding at the end the following:

"(N) \$95,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2024 through 2030, of which \$3,420,000 for each such fiscal year shall be used to carry out section 8(f)."

#### SEC. 3. REAUTHORIZATION OF ASSISTANCE TO FIREFIGHTERS GRANTS PROGRAM AND THE FIRE PREVENTION AND SAFETY GRANTS PROGRAM.

(a) SUNSET.—Section 33(r) of the Federal Fire Prevention and Control Act of 1974 (15 U.S.C. 2229(r)) is amended by striking "2024" and inserting "2032".

(b) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—Section 33(q)(1)(B) of the Federal Fire Prevention and Control Act of 1974 (15 U.S.C. 2229(q)(1)(B)) is amended, in the matter preceding clause (i), by striking "2023" and inserting "2030".

#### SEC. 4. REAUTHORIZATION OF STAFFING FOR ADEQUATE FIRE AND EMERGENCY RESPONSE GRANT PROGRAM.

(a) SUNSET.—Section 34(k) of the Federal Fire Prevention and Control Act of 1974 (15 U.S.C. 2229a(k)) is amended by striking "2024" and inserting "2032".

(b) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—Section 34(j)(1)(I) of the Federal Fire Prevention and Control Act of 1974 (15 U.S.C. 2229a(j)(1)(I)) is amended, in the matter preceding clause (i), by striking "2023" and inserting "2030".

#### SEC. 5. GAO AUDIT AND REPORT.

Not later than 3 years after the date of enactment of this Act, the Comptroller General of the United States shall conduct an audit of and issue a publicly available report on barriers that prevent fire departments from accessing Federal funds.

#### SEC. 6. LIMITATION ON FIRE GRANT FUNDS.

Neither the Government of the People's Republic of China, nor any entity or organization operating or incorporated in the People's Republic of China, may be eligible to be a recipient or subrecipient of Federal assistance under any assistance program authorized under subsection (c) or (d) of section 33

or section 34(a) of the Federal Fire Prevention and Control Act of 1974 (15 U.S.C. 2229, 2229a).

#### SEC. 7. GAO AUDIT.

Not later than 3 years after the date of enactment of this Act, the Comptroller General of the United States shall conduct an audit of and issue a publicly available report on the United States Fire Administration.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The majority leader.

#### LEGISLATIVE SESSION

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, I move to proceed to legislative session. The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the motion. The motion was agreed to.

#### EXECUTIVE SESSION

#### EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, I move to proceed to executive session to consider Calendar No. 64.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the motion. The motion was agreed to.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the nomination.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read the nomination of Joshua David Jacobs, of Washington, to be Under Secretary for Benefits of the Department of Veterans Affairs.

#### CLOTURE MOTION

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, I send a cloture motion to the desk.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The cloture motion having been presented under rule XXII, the Chair directs the clerk to read the motion.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

#### CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, do hereby move to bring to a close debate on the nomination of Executive Calendar No. 64, Joshua David Jacobs, of Washington, to be Under Secretary for Benefits of the Department of Veterans Affairs.

Charles E. Schumer, Raphael G. Warnock, Ben Ray Lujan, Tammy Duckworth, Jeff Merkley, Tim Kaine, Christopher A. Coons, Debbie Stabenow, Jon Tester, Sheldon Whitehouse, Tina Smith, Tammy Baldwin, Catherine Cortez Masto, Angus S. King, Jr., Mazie Hirono, John W. Hickenlooper, Margaret Wood Hassan.

#### LEGISLATIVE SESSION

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, I move to proceed to legislative session. The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the motion. The motion was agreed to.

#### VA MEDICINAL CANNABIS RESEARCH ACT OF 2023—Motion to Proceed

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, I move to proceed to consider Calendar No. 32, S. 326.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the motion.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

Motion to proceed to Calendar No. 32, S. 326, a bill to direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to carry out a study and clinical trials on the effects of cannabis on certain health outcomes of veterans with chronic pain and post-traumatic stress disorder, and for other purposes.

#### CLOTURE MOTION

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, I send a cloture motion to the desk.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The cloture motion having been presented under rule XXII, the Chair directs the clerk to read the motion.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

#### CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, do hereby move to bring to a close debate on the motion to proceed to Calendar No. 32, S. 326, a bill to direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to carry out a study and clinical trials on the effects of cannabis on certain health outcomes of veterans with chronic pain and post-traumatic stress disorder, and for other purposes.

Charles E. Schumer, Jon Tester, Alex Padilla, Christopher Murphy, Jeff Merkley, Michael F. Bennet, Tammy Baldwin, Richard J. Durbin, Mazie Hirono, Gary C. Peters, Margaret Wood Hassan, Brian Schatz, Tammy Duckworth, Catherine Cortez Masto, Cory A. Booker, Jack Reed, Raphael G. Warnock.

Mr. SCHUMER. I ask unanimous consent that the mandatory quorum calls for the cloture motions filed today, April 20, be waived.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

#### RECOGNIZING THE 30TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE UNITED STATES HOLOCAUST MEMORIAL MUSEUM

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to recognize the 30th anniversary of the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum, and then I will say a few words about it.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. SCHUMER. I ask unanimous consent the Senate proceed to consideration of S. Res. 167, submitted earlier today.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The clerk will report the resolution by title.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 167) recognizing the 30th anniversary of the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the resolution.

Mr. SCHUMER. I ask unanimous consent that the resolution be agreed to, the preamble be agreed to, and that the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table with no intervening action or debate.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The resolution (S. Res. 167) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

(The resolution, with its preamble, is printed in today's RECORD under "Submitted Resolutions.")

Mr. SCHUMER. First, I want to thank Senators CARDIN, RUBIO, and many others for introducing this legislation, this recognition.

The Holocaust Museum is an amazing place. I hope every American and every citizen in the world gets to visit it. It reminds us of one of the greatest, if not the greatest, harms ever inflicted on man, the horrible Shoah, the Holocaust, where 6 million people, 1 million children, died, were exterminated, were murdered.

Every time I go to the Holocaust Museum, something new strikes me. There is so much, so many people lost. You see the faces and the families and why they were killed—just because they were Jews. It reminds us of two things—one, to always remember. The Hebrew word is "zakar," remember. If we remember those who died, we keep their flame alive, and by remembering, we will also prevent future holocausts from occurring because if we realize the horror that can occur, it will importune men and women throughout the world and throughout this country to prevent any occurrence like this and make sure it is stopped.

Second, there is an increase in anti-Semitism in America and in the world today. We must do everything we can to fight that, as we must fight all forms of bigotry. This memorial will remind us that we can never sweep things like this under the rug, that we must remember and we must fight as hard as we can to snuff out anti-Semitism and all other forms of bigotry and prevent the kind of evilness that occurred in the Holocaust from ever occurring again.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. WICKER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

#### NUCLEAR DETERRENCE

Mr. WICKER. Today, I call on my colleagues to join me in supporting the effort to rebuild America's nuclear deterrent. For most Americans, this may seem like a relic of the Cold War, but to those of us tasked with funding our national defense, nuclear threats are not a thing of the past; nuclear threats are a present-day issue.

America successfully deterred nuclear attacks during the Cold War. Back then, we had one clear foe, but today's national security situation is the most complex we have faced since World War II. Russia, China, and North

Korea are rapidly growing their nuclear stockpiles, and Iran stands on the brink of building its own arsenal. Facing multiple nuclear-armed enemies at the same time requires us to rethink how we plan to modernize our nuclear capabilities.

Let me first briefly outline the nuclear threat posed by our primary adversaries and then list four steps Congress can take in response.

In the past, the Soviet Union and the United States possessed nuclear weapons stockpiles that dwarfed China's. Beijing has set out to change that. China has so rapidly expanded its nuclear arsenal that it may be a match for our own by the end of this decade.

With breathtaking speed, China completed a nuclear triad of intercontinental ballistic missiles, long-range bombers, and ballistic missile submarines. China's pace and sophistication took us by surprise, frankly. We were slow to respond as China built hundreds of new ballistic missile silos. Then they developed a fractional orbital bombardment system—orbital. That is as startling as the name sounds. With this system, China can place a nuclear warhead into the Earth's orbit and then drop it anywhere in the world with little warning. This is a fact.

The United States and the Soviet Union negotiated away these types of weapons during the Cold War. Russia and the United States did so in part because of the extreme danger such systems posed to global stability. As Xi Jinping develops this system for China, he makes it clear that causing international instability does not keep him up at night. In fact, Xi seems to thrive on it.

The situation with Russia is hardly any better. Vladimir Putin still owns the world's largest, most modern, and most diverse nuclear arsenal and is willing to threaten the use of nuclear weapons to get what he wants. He did this to try to keep NATO from intervening as he invaded Ukraine and has repeatedly done so since then to register his displeasure with our aid to the Ukrainian people.

On their own, China and Russia represent bad news for our interests, but there is still worse news. Moscow and Beijing have decided to work together. Earlier this year, China purchased over 28 tons of highly enriched uranium from Russia. This will likely be used to produce plutonium for additional nuclear weapons.

Two other nations present significant threats to the United States. North Korea may now possess enough missiles to overwhelm our homeland missile defenses. They have expanded their nuclear forces with little pushback from the Biden administration. Worse still, Iran may be only weeks away from building its own weapons, putting regional stability and our ally Israel at grave risk. The administration has shown little resolve to thwart Iran's nuclear program before it is too late.